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Testimony for the Planning and Development Committee Hearing March 11, 2016

Support for Substitute SB422 AAC Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and the Sellers of Bottled Water

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Osten and Rep. Miller and Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

We have resided in West Hartford for over 30 years and have been concerned about the management of our water by the MDC. The non-transparent action regarding the tax relief and legal agreement with the Niagara Bottling Company taken by the town of Bloomfield has led to the introduction of this bill, Substitute SB422, introduced by our Senator Beth Bye. We hope that you will support this important legislation in order to provide the needed regulations for the control of our water supply in the future.

The following points are addressed in this important legislation:

- **Protect residents, not water bottlers during a drought.** If the DPH declares a Drought Advisory, the production of bottled water for export out of state needs to stop.
- **Rescind water rate discounts for water bottlers.** They extract large amounts of our municipal water and spring water, fill the environment with plastic pollution, and profit while citizens are conserving and paying more.
- **Rescind the *Special Sewer Service Charge* discount for water bottlers (now known as the *Clean Water Project Charge*).** CT ratepayers have paid for years to build infrastructure for clean water; there should be no discounts for corporations.
- **Re-establish a citizen MDC (Metropolitan District Commission) watch dog committee.**
- **Impose a moratorium on any new large capacity agreements** until the State Water Plan is completed and addresses the issue of water bottling companies diverting water out of watersheds.

Please consider these points and support Substitute SB422.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.